

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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## NINTH ANNUAL MEETING - NCC

One hundred fifty delegates attended the Ninth Annual Meeting of the National Christian Council on March 22, 23 at the Ginza Church in downtown Tokyo. Dr. Michio Kozaki, the moderator, presided at all sessions. The Reverend Chitose Kishi, Principal of Japan Lutheran Seminary was elected vice-chairman.

Dr. R. G. Ross, General Secretary of the NCC-USA preached the opening sermon in which he stressed the importance of cooperation in the contemporary struggle against anti-Christian forces. Dr. Ross presented copies of a special edition of the Revised Standard version of the Bible to Moderator Kozaki and Secretary Hirai.

Approval was given for a 35 million yen budget for the World Sunday School Convention in 1958. ¥5 Million is to be raised in the churches and the balance from supporters. Mr. Keizo Shibuzawa has agreed to act as chairman of the Sponsors Committee. The NCC was asked to grant ¥1,000,000 (about \$2,750) to carry out the study of social questions-requested by the WCC, and an item of ¥100 to initiate studies in non-Christian faiths in Japan was approved.





The Council also approved a resolution presented by Mr. Soichi Saito, General Secretary of the National YMCA, to appeal to the Christian churches of the occident to seek to bring about cancellation of further experiments with A-H Bombs and the abolition of all thermonuclear weapons. Support for the anti-prostitution bill now before the National Diet was resolved and aid for the 6,000 victims of the disastrous fire in the Noshiro, Akita Prefecture, was voted.

Three new organizations were voted into the Council: The Friends of Jesus of which Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa is president (membership 932), the Japan Council of Christian Doctors (membership 400) and the General Association of Korean Christians in Japan (30 churches, 1167 members).

It was announced that Rev. Akira Ebisawa, former executive secretary of the NCC, will terminate his services with the Council and the centenary movement on March 31 in order to give his full time to writing.

The Rev. Kaname Tsukahara has accepted appointment as Secretary in the NCC headquarters.

#### CWS. AID TO EMIGRANTS

Japan Church World Service has completed arrangements for five Christian families having a total of thirty-two members to emigrate to Paraguay this month. They will be in a party of thirty-seven families leaving Yokohama on the OSK Africa Maru on April 3rd. Church World Service assists all the emigrants it can regardless of their religious faith, but it is hoped, that these five Christian families may be only the beginning of a continuing program of assistance to Christians who wish to find relief from the population problem. Although primarily intended to relieve the difficult situation which second and third sons face in rural areas, because of conditions laid down by the Brazilian Company, CAFE, which provides for their livelihood and employment, it was possible to send only family units having at least four able-bodied members.

The Rev. Kentaro Buma, Associate General Secretary of Japan Church World Service, has been responsible for successfully negotiating the details of the project. Last year he attended the World Conference of the Division of Interchurch Aid and Service to Refugees of the WCC in Geneva and then proceeded to Rio de Janeiro and the United States. In Brazil he investigated the situation of Japanese immigrants and concluded arrangements with the Rio office of the World Council of Churches for the project. Financial assistance for his trip was received from WCC. In Japan the Association of Japanese Overseas Migrants and the Japanese Government have given aid and counsel. Church World Service will provide clothing, food, and Bibles for the party when the ship reaches Los Angeles. Another group of thirteen families departs on the May 15 for the same destination. This project is an outgrowth of a proposal from





the International Relations Committee of the NCC presented to the Evanston Meeting of the WCC.

### BANGKOK THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

Dr. Hidenobu Kuwada, President of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary and Toru Yamazaki, Dean of Doshisha Theological Seminary, recently returned from a Conference on Theological Education in South East Asia, which was held in Bangkok early this month. Sponsored by the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council, the conference attracted not only regular delegates from South East Asian countries, but fraternal delegates from Japan, Korea, India, Ceylon, Pakistan and elsewhere. This is the first gathering of Asian theological seminary professors. The discussions indicated that many of those present feel that they have reached the point where they should no longer be dependent on western theological thought and leadership but should develop an Asia approach to Christian Theology.

Dr. Kuwada feels that Christian thought is not geographically divisible. But he believes that Japanese scholars can make their own distinct contribution in this field. A proposal to establish an advanced institution for theological studies somewhere in Asia, perhaps in India or Japan, was greeted with enthusiasm. A total of 69 delegates, including about 25 missionaries, from 18 countries were present. The conference was financed by the Nanking Seminary Foundation.

### IMC-WCC BANGKOK CONSULTATION

Dr. Darley Downs, Secretary of the Interboard Field Committee, Rev. Genshi Okada of the United Church of Christ in Japan, and Prof. Mikoto Goto of St. Paul University represented Japan at a consultation of invited representatives of churches and NCC in Asia, which was convened in Bangkok by Bishop Rajah Manikan of March 8-10. Its purpose was to discuss the relationship between the Asia Council on Ecumenical Mission and IMC-WCC. Those representing the WCC were: Dr. W. A. Viersart Hooft, Dr. Charles Ranson, and Dr. Lester Cooke. In making a review of the origin and development of the Asia Council on Ecumenical Mission since the first meeting in Hong Kong in July 1944, Dr. Marius Sobrapena of the Philippines, who is chairman of ACEM, pointed out that every effort had been made to coordinate their relations with the IMC-WCC and expressed the belief that ACEM could function within or in close relations with an IMC-WCC regional office in Asia. Further discussion of this subject was postponed until 1957 when a regional conference of all member churches and councils in Asia, to be sponsored jointly by IMC-WCC, will be held in Bangkok, Thailand.





## ASIA COUNCIL ON ECUMENICAL MISSION

At its meeting following the consultation ACEM decided to defer active solicitation of new members till after the prapat at conference, but it did lay definite plans for the work of the council in the interim.

Two new bodies did join namely the United Church of Christ in Okinawa and the Mid Java Church.

A budget of 25,500 was adopted. \$3,000 was appropriated toward travel expenses and first year's salary for Dr. & Mrs. Sison of Philippines who are to be missionaries of the United Church of Philippines to the United Church of Okinawa

Dr. Sison is a graduate dentist, and also a graduate of Union Seminary in Manila. Mrs. Sison is a B.A. in Religious Education. Dr. Sison already has a working knowledge of Japanese. He will be the dentist for the Okinawa Mobile Hospital and they both will do evangelical and Religious Educational work.

A list of missionaries from member churches was read. More than  $\frac{1}{2}$  are from the Philippines. The United Church of Phippines provides all the expenses of 5 of them.

The Council will carry all but \$100 each of the expense of attendance by 2 delegates each from 6 countries of Asia at a Rural Evangelism training conference in Japan this summer. The plan calls for a general conference & then visits to each of the 7 rural centers in Japan.

## MINISTERIAL EXAMINATIONS

Ninety-seven graduates of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary, Japan Biblical Seminary, National Rural Training Center, Department of Christianity of Aoyama Gakuin University, Doshisha Theological Seminary and Kansei Gakuin Theological Seminary were examined for ministerial license March 13-15. 87 were successful. However, nine of these were not graduates of fully accredited schools and so must pass three successive annual examinations. Eight failed and two cases are undecided. 65 candidates were from Tokyo schools and 32 from the Doshisha and Kansei Gakuin.

## ITO YOUTH CONFERENCE

"Problem concerning Youth at the Present Time" was the subject of discussion at the Seventh All-Japan Youth Leaders' Conference held at Ito, February 7-9, under the sponsorship of the Youth Commission of the National Christian Council. Mr. Kikuo Nishida of the Department of Education, speaking on the subject of "Youth and Student Movements" stated that the Department of Education has laid down the following principles for the guidance of university administrators:





1. A student movement should contribute to the progress of democracy in Japan.
2. A student movement should be a movement of students.
3. A student movement should contribute to the education of students.

Mr. Keizo Fujibayashi, who spoke on "Youth and the Labor Movement", remarked that youth have no opportunity for leadership in labor unions, that Japanese people are not sufficiently critical, that Japanese unions cannot or do not know how to bargain, and that the Japanese Communist party has withdrawn from active participation in the labor movement but it is still working under ground.

Mr. Bon Shiraishi of the Asahi Newspaper, who has spent some time in China, spoke on "Youth and Political Movements". He stated that many things have improved in China, but the question is have they improved because there was a revolution or because there is good leadership. If there were a Communist revolution in Japan, would it necessarily follow, for example, that all the flies would be exterminated? And is a revolution necessary in order to exterminate all flies? Making "human capital" is the most important thing for us to work on he concluded.

#### DR. KOZAKI GOING TO USA AND EUROPE

The Evangelical and Reformed Church has invited Dr. Michio Kozaki, chairman of the National Christian Council, to attend its convention at Lancaster, Penn. August 31 - September 7. Representatives of churches in India and Africa have also been invited.

#### MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

The Annual Spring Conference of missionaries affiliated with the United Church of Christ in Japan, which opens this week in Yumoto, will be attended by approximately 350 adults and about 50 children. Advance reports indicate that the number of non-Interboard Committee missionaries will be considerably larger this year. Among special guests to be present will be Mr. J. C. Penny, Dr. George Dorcy, Moderator of the United Church of Canada, and the Rev. Weyman C. Huckabee, Secretary and Treasurer of the Laymen's Movement for World Christianity.

#### INTERBOARD COMMITTEE MISSIONARIES

There are 398 missionaries currently affiliated with the Interboard Committee for Christian Work in Japan. Their denominational affiliation in their homelands is as follows: Methodist 132, Presbyterian Church in the USA 62, United Church of Canada 54, Congregational 42, Evangelical and Reformed 37, Reformed Church in America 27, Evangelical United Brethren 25, and Disciples of Christ 19. These working directly with churches number 134 (men 55, women 79)





those in educational institution 176 (men 53, women 123) and those in social welfare work 20 (men 5, women 15). Twenty men and 141 women are unmarried.

#### SECRETARY HIRAI'S EUROPEAN TRIP

The General Secretary of NCC, Kiyoshi Hirai, who is a member of the Standing Committee of the Commission of the World Missions of the Lutheran Church, has been invited to attend the meeting of the committee to be convened in Norway early in August of this year. From July 16-20 he will attend the Theological Conference of the Lutheran World Federation in Berlin, which is being called by the Department of Theology. This conference will be followed by similar conferences in West Germany and also in Finland. Mr. Hirai plans to attend all three. He hopes to make this trip via the United States and expects to meet some of the members of the Japan Committee in New York for consultations about the NCC.

#### CWS SUPPLIES LOST AT SEA

Seventy-five thousand pound of milk and relief supplies (insured) were lost when the freighter Washington Mail sunk at sea early in March. A bed and piano (uninsured) belonging to Mr. and Mrs. K. Buma of CWS, were also lost.

#### NOSHIRO CWS RELIEF

Japan Church World Service sent thirty bales of clothing and 200 cases of butter (7,200 pounds) to the Mayor of Noshiro, Akita Prefecture, the day after the city was devastated by fire.

